

*THE MUTINY ON 'THE
FLAG* 39

and the prisoners were given some food.
To the
questions that John Block asked them,
the sailors
only replied with brutal threats.

More than once did the boatswain and
his com-
panions try to force up the hatch and
regain their
liberty. But the hatch was guarded day
and night,
and even if they had succeeded in
raising it, over-
powering their guards, and getting up
on deck, what
chance would they have had against the
crew, and
what would have been the result ?

" The brute ! The brute ! " said Fritz
over and
over again, as he thought of his wife and
Susan and
Dolly.

" Yes ; the biggest rascal alive ! " John
Block
declared. " If he doesn't swing some day
it will be
because justice is dead ! "

But if the mutineers were to be
punished, and
their ringleader given the treatment
he deserved,
a man-of-war must catch and seize the
Flag. And
Robert Borupt did not commit the
blunder of going
into waters where ships were numerous,
and where
he and his gang might have run the risk
of being
chased. He must have taken the ship
far out of her
proper course, most probably to the
eastward, with

the object of getting away alike from
ships and the
African and Australian shores.

Every day was adding a hundred, or a
hundred
and fifty, miles to the distance
separating the *Flag*
from the meridian of New
Switzerland. Captain